



**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
Assessment Alignment Study**

RFP NUMBER: 331.00-004

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of Purpose

The State of Tennessee, Department of Education, hereinafter referred to as the State, has issued this Request for Proposals (RFP) to define the State's minimum service requirements; solicit proposals; detail proposal requirements; and, outline the State's process for evaluating proposals and selecting the contractor.

Through this RFP, the State seeks to buy the best services at the most favorable, competitive prices and to give ALL qualified businesses, including those that are owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability, and small business enterprises, opportunity to do business with the state as contractors and sub-contractors.

The State intends to secure a contract for an alignment study to delineate the relationship between the structure of the State content standards and the structure of the State assessments.

1.2 Scope of Service, Contract Period, and Required Terms and Conditions

The RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract details the State's required:

- Scope of Services and Deliverables in Section A;
- Contract Period in Section B;
- Payment Terms in Section C;
- Standard Terms and Conditions in Section D; and,
- Special Terms and Conditions in Section E.

The *pro forma* contract substantially represents the contract document that the proposer selected by the State MUST agree to and sign.

1.3 Nondiscrimination

No person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, be discriminated against in the admission or access to, or be discriminated against in treatment or employment in the State's contracted programs or activities on the grounds of disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by federal or Tennessee State Constitutional or statutory law; nor shall they be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of contracts with the State or in the employment practices of the State's contractors. Accordingly, all vendors entering into contracts with the State shall, upon request, be required to show proof of such nondiscrimination and to post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.

The State has designated the following to coordinate compliance with the nondiscrimination requirements of the State of Tennessee, Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and applicable federal regulations.

Gloria Williams, Esq., Director of Office of Civil Rights
Tennessee Department of Education
Andrew Johnson Tower, 6th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 253-1550

1.4 Assistance to Proposers With a Disability

A Proposer with a disability may receive accommodation regarding the means of communicating this RFP and participating in this RFP process. A Proposer with a disability should contact the RFP Coordinator to request reasonable accommodation no later than the Disability Accommodation Request Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

1.5 RFP Communications

- 1.5.1 Unauthorized contact regarding this RFP with employees or officials of the State of Tennessee other than the RFP Coordinator detailed below may result in disqualification from this procurement process.**
- 1.5.1.1 Interested Parties must direct all communications regarding this RFP to the following RFP Coordinator, who is the state of Tennessee's only official point of contact for this RFP.
- Samantha D. Law, RFP Coordinator
Tennessee Department of Education
Andrew Johnson Tower, 6th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243
Phone: (615) 532-8539
Fax: (615) 741-6793
Samantha.Law@state.tn.us
- 1.5.1.2 Notwithstanding the foregoing, Interested Parties may contact the staff of the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise for general, public information regarding this RFP, assistance available from the Governor's Office of Diversity Business Enterprise, or potential future state procurements.
- 1.5.2 The State has assigned the following RFP identification number that must be referenced in all communications regarding the RFP:
- RFP-331.00-004
- 1.5.3 Any oral communications shall be considered unofficial and non-binding with regard to this RFP.
- 1.5.4 Each Proposer shall assume the risk of the method of dispatching any communication or proposal to the State. The State assumes no responsibility for delays or delivery failures resulting from the method of dispatch. Actual or electronic "postmarking" of a communication or proposal to the State by a deadline date shall not substitute for actual receipt of a communication or proposal by the State.
- 1.5.5 The RFP Coordinator must receive all written comments, including questions and requests for clarification, no later than the Written Comments Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.
- 1.5.6 The State reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, the appropriate and adequate responses to written comments, questions, and requests for clarification. The State's official responses and other official communications pursuant to this RFP shall constitute an amendment of this RFP.
- 1.5.7 The State will convey all official responses and communications pursuant to this RFP to the potential proposers from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Propose.
- 1.5.8 Only the State's official, written responses and communications shall be considered binding with regard to this RFP.
- 1.5.9 The State reserves the right to determine, at its sole discretion, the method of conveying official responses and communications pursuant to this RFP (e.g., written, facsimile, electronic mail, or Internet posting).
- 1.5.10 Any data or factual information provided by the State, in this RFP or an official response or communication, shall be deemed for informational purposes only, and if a Proposer relies on such data or factual information, the Proposer should either: (1) independently verify the information; or, (2) obtain the State's written consent to rely thereon.

1.6 Notice of Intent to Propose

Each potential proposer should submit a Notice of Intent to Propose to the RFP Coordinator by the deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. The notice should include:

- Proposer's name
- name and title of a contact person
- address, telephone number, and facsimile number of the contact person

NOTICE: A Notice of Intent to Propose creates no obligation and is not a prerequisite for making a proposal, however, it is necessary to ensure receipt of RFP amendments and other communications regarding the RFP (refer to RFP Sections 1.5, *et seq.*, above).

1.7 Proposal Deadline

Proposals must be submitted no later than the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. A proposal must respond to the written RFP and any RFP exhibits, attachments, or amendments. A late proposal shall not be accepted, and a Proposer's failure to submit a proposal before the deadline shall cause the proposal to be disqualified.

1.8 Pre-Proposal Conference

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held at the time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the RFP scope of services. While questions will be entertained, the response to any question at the Pre-Proposal Conference shall be considered tentative and non-binding with regard to this RFP. Questions concerning the RFP should be submitted in writing prior to the Written Comments Deadline date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. To ensure accurate, consistent responses to all known potential Proposers, the official response to questions will be issued by the State as described in RFP Sections 1.5, *et seq.*, above and on the date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

Pre-Proposal Conference attendance is not mandatory, and each potential Proposer may be limited to a maximum number of attendees depending upon overall attendance and space limitations. The conference will be held at:

**The Tennessee Department of Education
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0375
Andrew Johnson Tower, 1st Floor Conference Room**

2 RFP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

The following Schedule of Events represents the State's best estimate of the schedule that will be followed. Unless otherwise specified, the time of day for the following events will be between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Central Time.

RFP SCHEDULE OF EVENTS		
NOTICE: The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to adjust this schedule as it deems necessary. The State will communicate any adjustment to the Schedule of Events to the potential proposers from whom the State has received a Notice of Intent to Propose.		
EVENT	TIME	DATE (all dates are state business days)
1. State Issues RFP		September 14, 2002
2. Disability Accommodation Request Deadline		September 21, 2005
3. Pre-proposal Conference	10:00 am	September 26, 2005
4. Notice of Intent to Propose Deadline		September 28, 2005
5. Written Comments Deadline		October 3, 2005
6. State Responds to Written Comments		October 12, 2005
7. Proposal Deadline	2:00 p.m.	October 19, 2005
8. State Completes Technical Proposal Evaluations		October 26, 2005
9. State Opens Cost Proposals and Calculates Scores	9:00 a.m.	October 27, 2005
10. State Issues Evaluation Notice <u>and</u> Opens RFP Files for Public Inspection	9:00 a.m.	October 28, 2005
11. Contract Signing		November 9, 2005
12. Contract Signature Deadline		November 16, 2005
13. Contract Start Date		November 17, 2005

3 PROPOSAL REQUIREMENTS

Each Proposer must submit a proposal in response to this RFP with the most favorable terms that the Proposer can offer. There will be no best and final offer procedure.

3.1 Proposal Form and Delivery

3.1.1 Each response to this RFP must consist of a Technical Proposal and a Cost Proposal (as described below).

3.1.2 Each Proposer must submit one (1) original and six (6) copies of the Technical Proposal to the State in a sealed package that is clearly marked:

“Technical Proposal in Response to RFP- 331.00-004 -- Do Not Open”

3.1.3 Each Proposer must submit one (1) Cost Proposal to the State in a separate, sealed package that is clearly marked:

“Cost Proposal in Response to RFP- 331.00-004 -- Do Not Open”

3.1.4 If a Proposer encloses the separately sealed proposals (as detailed above) in a larger package for mailing, the Proposer must clearly mark the outermost package:

“Contains Separately Sealed Technical and Cost Proposals for RFP- 331.00-004”

3.1.5 The State must receive all proposals in response to this RFP, at the following address, no later than the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

Samantha D. Law, RFP Coordinator
Tennessee Department of Education
Andrew Johnson Tower, 6th Floor
710 James Robertson Parkway
Nashville, TN 37243-0375

3.1.6 A Proposer may not deliver a proposal orally or by any means of electronic transmission.

3.2 Technical Proposal

3.2.1 The RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide details specific requirements for making a Technical Proposal in response to this RFP. This guide includes mandatory and general requirements as well as technical queries requiring a written response.

NOTICE: No pricing information shall be included in the Technical Proposal. Inclusion of Cost Proposal amounts in the Technical Proposal shall make the proposal non-responsive and the State shall reject it.

3.2.2 Each Proposer must use the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide to organize, reference, and draft the Technical Proposal. Each Proposer should duplicate the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide and use it as a table of contents covering the Technical Proposal (adding proposal page numbers as appropriate).

3.2.3 Each proposal should be economically prepared, with emphasis on completeness and clarity of content. A proposal, as well as any reference material presented, must be written in English and must be written on standard 8 1/2" x 11" paper (although foldouts containing charts, spreadsheets, and oversize exhibits are permissible). All proposal pages must be numbered.

3.2.4 All information included in a Technical Proposal should be relevant to a specific requirement detailed in the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide. All information must be incorporated into a response

to a specific requirement and clearly referenced. Any information not meeting these criteria will be deemed extraneous and will in no way contribute to the evaluation process.

3.2.5 The State may determine a proposal to be non-responsive and reject it if the Proposer fails to organize and properly reference the Technical Proposal as required by this RFP and the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide;

3.2.6 The State may determine a proposal to be non-responsive and reject it if the Technical Proposal document fails to appropriately address/meet all of the requirements detailed in the Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide

3.3 Cost Proposal

3.3.1 The Cost Proposal must be submitted to the State in a sealed package separate from the Technical proposal.

3.3.2 Each Cost Proposal must be recorded on an exact duplicate of the RFP Attachment 6.4, Cost Proposal and Evaluation Guide.

3.3.3 Each Proposer shall ONLY record the proposed cost exactly as required by the Cost Proposal and Evaluation Guide and shall NOT record any other rates, amounts, or information.

3.3.4 The proposed cost shall incorporate all costs for services under the contract for the total contract period.

3.3.5 The Proposer must sign and date the Cost Proposal.

3.3.6 If a Proposer fails to submit a Cost Proposal as required, the State shall determine the proposal to be non-responsive and reject it.

4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS & CONTRACTING INFORMATION

4.1 Proposer Required Review and Waiver of Objections

Each Proposer must carefully review this RFP and all attachments, including but not limited to the *pro forma* contract, for comments, questions, defects, objections, or any other matter requiring clarification or correction (collectively called “comments”). Comments concerning RFP objections must be made in writing and received by the State no later than the Written Comments Deadline detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. This will allow issuance of any necessary amendments and help prevent the opening of defective proposals upon which contract award could not be made.

Protests based on any objection shall be considered waived and invalid if these comments/objections have not been brought to the attention of the State, in writing, by the Written Comments Deadline.

4.2 RFP Amendment and Cancellation

The State reserves the unilateral right to amend this RFP in writing at any time. If an RFP amendment is issued, the State will convey such amendment to the potential proposers who submitted a Notice of Intent to Propose. Each proposal must respond to the final written RFP and any exhibits, attachments, and amendments.

The State of Tennessee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to cancel and reissue this RFP or to cancel this RFP in its entirety in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.3 Proposal Prohibitions and Right of Rejection

4.3.1 The State of Tennessee reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to reject any and all proposals in accordance with applicable laws and regulations.

4.3.2 Each proposal must comply with all of the terms of this RFP and all applicable State laws and regulations. The State may reject any proposal that does not comply with all of the terms, conditions, and performance requirements of this RFP. The State may consider any proposal that does not meet the requirements of this RFP to be non-responsive, and the State may reject such a proposal.

4.3.3 A proposal of alternate services (*i.e.*, a proposal that offers services different from those requested by this RFP) shall be considered non-responsive and rejected.

4.3.4 A Proposer may not restrict the rights of the State or otherwise qualify a proposal. The State may determine such a proposal to be a non-responsive counteroffer, and the proposal may be rejected.

4.3.5 A Proposer may not submit the Proposer's own contract terms and conditions in a response to this RFP. If a proposal contains such terms and conditions, the State may determine, at its sole discretion, the proposal to be a non-responsive counteroffer, and the proposal may be rejected.

4.3.6 A Proposer shall not submit more than one proposal. Submitting more than one proposal shall result in the disqualification of the Proposer.

4.3.7 A Proposer shall not submit multiple proposals in different forms. This prohibited action shall be defined as a Proposer submitting one proposal as a prime contractor and permitting a second Proposer to submit another proposal with the first Proposer offered as a subcontractor. This restriction does not prohibit different Proposers from offering the same subcontractor as a part of their proposals, provided that the subcontractor does not also submit a proposal as a prime contractor. Submitting multiple proposals in different forms may result in the disqualification of all Proposers knowingly involved.

4.3.8 The State shall reject a proposal if the Cost Proposal was not arrived at independently without collusion, consultation, communication, or agreement as to any matter relating to such prices with any

other Proposer. Regardless of the time of detection, the State shall consider any of the foregoing prohibited actions to be grounds for proposal rejection or contract termination.

- 4.3.9 The State shall not contract with or consider a proposal from:
- 4.3.9.1 an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, an employee or official of the State of Tennessee;
 - 4.3.9.2 a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity in which an ownership of two percent (2%) or more is held by an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, an employee or official of the State of Tennessee (this shall not apply either to financial interests that have been placed into a "blind trust" arrangement pursuant to which the employee does not have knowledge of the retention or disposition of such interests or to the ownership of publicly traded stocks or bonds where such ownership constitutes less than 2% of the total outstanding amount of the stocks or bonds of the issuing entity);
 - 4.3.9.3 a company, corporation, or any other contracting entity which employs an individual who is, or within the past six months has been, an employee or official of the State of Tennessee in a position that would allow the direct or indirect use or disclosure of information, which was obtained through or in connection with his or her employment and not made available to the general public, for the purpose of furthering the private interest or personal profit of any person; or,
 - 4.3.9.4 any individual, company, or other entity involved in assisting the State in the development, formulation, or drafting of this RFP or its scope of services shall be considered to have been given information that would afford an unfair advantage over other Proposers, and such individual, company, or other entity may not submit a proposal in response to this RFP.
 - 4.3.9.5 For the purposes of applying the requirements of RFP subsection 4.3.9, *et. seq.*, an individual shall be deemed an employee or official of the State of Tennessee until such time as all compensation for salary, termination pay, and annual leave has been paid.
 - 4.3.10 The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to waive a proposal's variances from full compliance with this RFP. If the State waives minor variances in a proposal, such waiver shall not modify the RFP requirements or excuse the Proposer from full compliance with such. Notwithstanding any minor variance, the State may hold any Proposer to strict compliance with this RFP.

4.4 Incorrect Proposal Information

If the State determines that a Proposer has provided, for consideration in this RFP process or subsequent contract negotiations, incorrect information that the Proposer knew or should have known was materially incorrect, that proposal shall be determined non-responsive and shall be rejected.

4.5 Proposal of Additional Services

If a proposal offers services in addition to those required by and described in this RFP, the additional services may be added to the contract before contract signing at the sole discretion of the State. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Proposer shall not propose any additional cost amount(s) or rate(s) for additional services.

NOTICE: The Proposer's Cost Proposal shall record only the proposed cost as required in this RFP and shall not record any other rates, amounts, or information. If a Proposer fails to submit a Cost Proposal as required, the State shall determine the proposal to be non-responsive and shall reject the proposal.

4.6 Assignment and Subcontracting

- 4.6.1 The Proposer awarded a contract pursuant to this RFP may not subcontract, transfer, or assign any portion of the contract without the State's prior, written approval.

- 4.6.2 A subcontractor may only be substituted for a proposed subcontractor at the discretion of the State and with the State's prior, written approval.
- 4.6.3 At its sole discretion, the State reserves the right to refuse approval of any subcontract, transfer, or assignment.
- 4.6.4 Notwithstanding State approval of each subcontractor, the Proposer, if awarded a contract pursuant to this RFP, shall be the prime contractor and shall be responsible for all work performed.

4.7 Right to Refuse Personnel

At its sole discretion, the State reserves the right to refuse any personnel, of the prime contractor or a subcontractor, for use in the performance of a contract pursuant to this RFP.

4.8 Insurance

The State may require the apparent successful Proposer to provide proof of adequate worker's compensation and public liability insurance coverage before entering into a contract. Additionally, the State may require, at its sole discretion, the apparent successful Proposer to provide proof of adequate professional malpractice liability or other forms of insurance. Failure to provide evidence of such insurance coverage is a material breach and grounds for termination of the contract negotiations. Any insurance required by the State shall be in form and substance acceptable to the State.

4.9 Licensure

Before a contract pursuant to this RFP is signed, the apparent successful Proposer must hold all necessary, applicable business and professional licenses. The State may require any or all Proposers to submit evidence of proper licensure.

4.10 Service Location and Work Space

The service pursuant to this RFP is to be performed, completed, managed, and delivered as detailed in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract. Work space on the State's premises may be available for contractor use in accordance with the *pro forma* contract or at the State's discretion. Any work performed on the State's premises shall be completed during the State's standard business hours.

4.11 Proposal Withdrawal

A Proposer may withdraw a submitted proposal at any time up to the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. To do so, a proposer must submit a written request, signed by a Proposer's authorized representative to withdraw a proposal. After withdrawing a previously submitted proposal, a Proposer may submit another proposal at any time up to the Proposal Deadline.

4.12 Proposal Errors and Amendments

Each Proposer is liable for all proposal errors or omissions. A Proposer will not be allowed to alter or amend proposal documents after the Proposal Deadline time and date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events unless such is formally requested, in writing, by the State.

4.13 Proposal Preparation Costs

The State will not pay any costs associated with the preparation, submittal, or presentation of any proposal.

4.14 Disclosure of Proposal Contents

Each proposal and all materials submitted to the State in response to this RFP shall become the property of the State of Tennessee. Selection or rejection of a proposal does not affect this right. All proposal information, including detailed price and cost information, shall be held in confidence during the evaluation process. Notwithstanding, a list of actual proposers submitting timely proposals may be available to the public, upon request, directly after technical proposals are opened by the state.

Upon the completion of the evaluation of proposals, indicated by public release of an Evaluation Notice, the proposals and associated materials shall be open for review by the public in accordance with *Tennessee Code Annotated*, Section 10-7-504(a)(7). By submitting a proposal, the Proposer acknowledges and accepts that the full proposal contents and associated documents shall become open to public inspection.

4.15 Contractor Registration

All service contractors with state of Tennessee contracts must be registered through the Department of Finance and Administration's Service Provider Registry prior to contract approval. However, registration with the state is not required to make a proposal (any unregistered service provider must simply register as required prior to the final contract approval). Refer to the following Internet URL for more information about the Service Provider Registry and to register "on-line."

www.state.tn.us/finance/rds/ocr/sprs.html

4.16 Contract Approval

The RFP and the contractor selection processes do not obligate the State and do not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the Proposer with the apparent best-evaluated proposal or any other Proposer. Contract award and State obligations pursuant thereto shall commence only after the contract is signed by the Contractor and the head of the procuring state agency and after the contract is approved and signed by all other State officials as required by State laws and regulations.

4.17 Contract Payments

All contract payments shall be made in accordance with the contract's Payment Terms and Conditions provisions (refer to RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract, Section C). No payment shall be made until the contract is approved as required by State laws and regulations. Under no conditions shall the State be liable for payment of any type associated with the contract or responsible for any work done by the Contractor, even work done in good faith and even if the Contractor is orally directed to proceed with the delivery of services, if it occurs before contract approval by State officials as required by applicable statutes and rules of the State of Tennessee or before the contract start date or after the contract end date specified by the contract.

4.18 Contractor Performance

The Contractor shall be responsible for the completion of all work set out in the contract. All work is subject to inspection, evaluation, and acceptance by the State. The State may employ all reasonable means to ensure that the work is progressing and being performed in compliance with the contract. At reasonable times, the State may inspect those areas of the Contractor's place of business that are related to the performance of the contract. If the State requires such an inspection, the Contractor shall provide reasonable access and assistance.

4.19 Contract Amendment

During the course of this contract, the State may request the Contractor to perform additional work for which the Contractor would be compensated. That work shall be within the general scope of this RFP. In such instances, the State shall provide the Contractor a written description of the additional work, and the Contractor shall submit a time schedule for accomplishing the additional work and a price for the additional work based on the rates included in the Contractor's proposal to this RFP. If the State and the Contractor reach an agreement regarding the work and associated compensation, such

agreement shall be effected by means of a contract amendment. Any such amendment requiring additional work must be mutually agreed upon by the parties and signed by the Contractor and the head of the procuring state agency and must be approved by other State officials as required by State laws and regulations. The Contractor shall not commence additional work until the State has issued a written contract amendment and secured all required approvals.

4.20 Severability

If any provision of this RFP is declared by a court to be illegal or in conflict with any law, said decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining RFP terms and provisions, and the rights and obligations of the State and Proposers shall be construed and enforced as if the RFP did not contain the particular provision held to be invalid.

5 PROPOSAL EVALUATION & CONTRACT AWARD

5.1 Evaluation Categories and Maximum Points

The State will consider qualifications and experience, technical approach, and cost in the evaluation of proposals. The maximum points that shall be awarded for each of these categories are detailed below.

CATEGORY	MAXIMUM POINTS POSSIBLE
Qualifications and Experience	20
Technical Approach	50
Cost Proposal	30

5.2 Evaluation Process

The proposal evaluation process is designed to award the contract not necessarily to the Proposer of least cost, but rather to the Proposer with the best combination of attributes based upon the evaluation criteria.

- 5.2.1 The RFP Coordinator will use the RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide to manage the Technical Proposal Evaluation and maintain evaluation records.
 - 5.2.1.1 The RFP Coordinator will review each Technical Proposal to determine compliance with mandatory requirements (refer to RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide, Technical Proposal Section A). If the RFP Coordinator determines that a proposal may have failed to meet one or more of the mandatory requirements, the Proposal Evaluation Team will review the proposal and document its determination of whether: (1) the proposal meets requirements for further evaluation; (2) the State will request clarifications or corrections; or, (3) the State will determine the proposal non-responsive to the RFP and reject it.
 - 5.2.1.2 A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will evaluate each Technical Proposal that appears responsive to the RFP.
 - 5.2.1.3 Each Proposal Evaluation Team member will independently, evaluate each proposal against the evaluation criteria in this RFP, rather than against other proposals, and will score each in accordance with the RFP Attachment 6.3, Technical Proposal and Evaluation Guide.
 - 5.2.1.4 The State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to request Proposer clarification of a Technical Proposal or to conduct clarification discussions with any or all Proposers. Any such clarification or discussion shall be limited to specific sections of the proposal identified by the State. The subject Proposer shall put any resulting clarification in writing as may be required by the State.
- 5.2.2 After Technical Proposal evaluations are completed, the RFP Coordinator will open the Cost Proposals and use the RFP Attachment 6.4, Cost Proposal and Evaluation Guide to calculate and document the Cost Proposal scores.
- 5.2.3 For each responsive proposal, the RFP Coordinator will add the average Technical Proposal score to the Cost Proposal score (refer to RFP Attachment 6.5, Proposal Score Summary Matrix).

5.3 Contract Award Process

- 5.3.1 The RFP Coordinator will forward the results of the proposal evaluation process to the head of the procuring agency who will consider the proposal evaluation process results and all pertinent

information available to make a determination about the contract award. The State reserves the right to make an award without further discussion of any proposal.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, to effect a contract award to a proposer other than the one receiving the highest evaluation score, the head of the procuring agency must provide written justification for such an award and obtain the written approval of the Commissioner of Finance and Administration and the Comptroller of the Treasury.

- 5.3.2 After the agency head's determination, the State will issue an Evaluation Notice to identify the apparent best-evaluated proposal on the Evaluation Notice date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

NOTICE: The Evaluation Notice shall not create rights, interests, or claims of entitlement in either the Proposer with apparent best-evaluated proposal or any other Proposer.

- 5.3.3 The State will also make the RFP files available for public inspection on the Evaluation Notice date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events.

- 5.3.4 The Proposer with the apparent best-evaluated proposal must agree to and sign a contract with the State which shall be substantially the same as the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract.

However, the State reserves the right, at its sole discretion, to add terms and conditions or to revise *pro forma* contract requirements in the State's best interests subsequent to this RFP process. No such terms and conditions or revision of contract requirements shall materially affect the basis of proposal evaluations or negatively impact the competitive nature of the RFP process.

- 5.3.5 The Proposer with the apparent best-evaluated proposal must sign and return the contract drawn by the State pursuant to this RFP no later than the Contract Signature Deadline date detailed in the RFP Section 2, Schedule of Events. If the Proposer fails to provide the signed contract by the deadline, the State may determine that the Proposer is non-responsive to the terms of this RFP and reject the proposal.

- 5.3.6 If the State determines that the apparent best-evaluated proposal is non-responsive and rejects the proposal after opening Cost Proposals, the RFP Coordinator will re-calculate scores for each responsive Cost Proposal to determine the new, apparent best-evaluated proposal.

ATTACHMENT 6.1

PRO FORMA CONTRACT

The *pro forma* contract detailed in this attachment contains some “blanks” (signified by descriptions in capital letters) that will be completed with appropriate information in the final contract resulting from this RFP.

**CONTRACT
BETWEEN THE STATE OF TENNESSEE,
Department of Education
AND
[CONTRACTOR NAME]**

This Contract, by and between the State of Tennessee, Department of Education, hereinafter referred to as the “State” and [CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME], hereinafter referred to as the “Contractor,” is for the provision of an alignment study, in report format, to delineate the relationship between the structure of the State content standards and the structure of the State assessments, as further defined in the “SCOPE OF SERVICES.”

The Contractor is [AN INDIVIDUAL / A FOR-PROFIT CORPORATION / A NONPROFIT CORPORATION / A SPECIAL PURPOSE CORPORATION OR ASSOCIATION / A FRATERNAL OR PATRIOTIC ORGANIZATION / A PARTNERSHIP / A JOINT VENTURE / A LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY]. The Contractor’s address is:

[ADDRESS]

The Contractor’s place of incorporation or organization is [STATE OF ORGANIZATION].

A. SCOPE OF SERVICES:

A.1 PROJECT DEFINITIONS:

Academic Content Standards – Divisions of the State curriculum that specify what students are expected to know and be able to do; contain coherent and rigorous content; and encourage the teaching of advanced skills. <http://www.state.tn.us/education/ci/standards/index.php>

Academic Performance Standards – Definitions of performance at varying levels that define how students demonstrate proficiency on the grade level academic content. Tennessee uses three levels of performance, set at below proficient, proficient and advanced as required by federal law

Alternate Academic Content Standards – Divisions of the State curriculum that provide an appropriate challenge for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

Alternative Performance Standards – Definitions of performance at varying levels that define how students with significant cognitive disabilities demonstrate proficiency on the grade level academic content.

CELLA – Comprehensive English Language Learners Assessment used to determine level of proficiency for ESL students

CRT– Criterion-referenced test; test items that are aligned with Tennessee’s Content Standards

ELL – English Language Learner or student with non-English language background

ESL – English Second Language – used to designate the program designed to serve ELL students

ESL Standards: <http://www.state.tn.us/education/accteslstdsdraft.pdf>

TCAP – Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program**TCAP-ALT – Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program-Alternate Assessments****TCAP Assessments currently conducted by the State:**

Grades	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Math	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT		
Alternate	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL			
Reading	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT			
Alternate	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL			
Language arts	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT		CRT	
Alternate	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL	AA-SWD/AAS/ELL			
Writing			CRT			CRT			CRT
Alternate			AA-SWD/AAS/ELL			AA-SWD/AAS/ELL			AA-SWD/AAS/ELL
Science	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT	CRT		CRT	
Alternate									

- (a) **CRT** - criterion-referenced assessments;
- (b) Alternate Assessments: **AA-SWD** for an alternate assessment for students with disabilities based on grade-level standards and/or **AA-AAS** for an alternate assessment for students with the most significant cognitive disabilities based on alternate achievement standards;
- (c) **AA-ELL** - alternate assessment for ELL students with limited English proficiency based on grade-level standards.

A.2 PROJECT EXPLANATION:

The United States Department of Education (ED) is conducting a Standards and Assessment Peer Review of each state's content standards and assessment program to document compliance with requirements specified by No Child Left Behind. Components of this *Peer Review* require studies to be conducted by entities outside the state departments of education.

A.3 PROJECT DELIVERABLE:

The Contractor shall provide an alignment study, in report format, that delineates the relationships between the structure of the content standards and the structure of the assessments. The study shall include appropriate documentation needed to help meet evidentiary requirements specified for the Standards and Assessments Peer Review Process as indicated in Sections 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, and 5.6. of the *Standards and Assessments Peer Review Guidance*, which may be found and downloaded in its entirety at: <http://www.ed.gov/policy/elsec/guid/saaprguidance.doc>

The report shall be provided on CD in Microsoft Word and/or Excel format. Any illustrations or displays may be provided in Microsoft Publisher and/or PowerPoint format. Ten (10) hard copies of the report shall also be provided. The report shall be delivered no later than January 10, 2006, to:

Dr. Benjamin Brown, Executive Director, Research
 Department of Education
 1252 Foster Avenue, Hardison Building, Nashville, TN 37210

TCAP assessments to be evaluated for this study include:

- CRT assessments for grades 3 – 8 in Math, Reading/Language, Science;
- Writing, grades 5, 8, and 11;
- CRT assessments for secondary courses in Algebra I, Biology I, and English II; and
- CELLA Reading grades 3 – 8

This study will not include the Alternative Assessment component of the Peer Review, and is not a requirement within this scope.

The study shall identify:

- a. whether the TCAP assessments cover the full range of content specified in the State's academic content standards, meaning that all of the standards are represented legitimately in the assessments,
- b. whether the TCAP assessments measure both the content (what students know) and the process (what students can do) aspects of the academic content standards,
- c. whether the TCAP assessments reflect the same degree and pattern of emphasis apparent in the academic content standards (e.g., if the academic content standards place a lot of emphasis on operations then so should the assessments),
- d. whether the TCAP assessments reflect the full range of cognitive complexity and level of difficulty of the concepts and processes described, and depth represented, in the State's academic content standards, meaning that the assessments are as demanding as the standards,
- e. whether the TCAP assessments yield results that represent all achievement levels specified in the State's academic achievement standards, and,
- f. any gaps or weaknesses found in the TCAP assessments as related to State content standards and make recommendations for improvements.

A.4. The State shall have all ownership rights to the study/report in accordance with Section E.4.

B. CONTRACT TERM:

B.1. Contract Term. This Contract shall be effective for the period commencing on November 17, 2005 and ending on February 15, 2006. The State shall have no obligation for services rendered by the Contractor which are not performed within the specified period.

C. PAYMENT TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

C.1. Maximum Liability. In no event shall the maximum liability of the State under this Contract exceed [WRITTEN DOLLAR AMOUNT] (\$[NUMBER AMOUNT]). This amount shall constitute the entire compensation due the Contractor for the Service and all of the Contractor's obligations hereunder regardless of the difficulty, hours worked, or materials or equipment required. The Contract Amount includes but is not limited to all applicable taxes, fees, overhead, profit, and all other direct and indirect costs incurred or to be incurred by the Contractor.

C.2. Compensation Firm. The maximum liability of the State under this Contract is firm for the duration of the Contract and is not subject to escalation for any reason unless amended.

- C.3. Payment Methodology. Upon completion of the work described in Section A of this Contract, the Contractor shall submit an invoice, in form and substance acceptable to the State and with all of the necessary supporting documentation, prior to any payment. The Contractor shall be compensated for the Alignment Study Report in the amount of \$_____.
- C.4. Travel Compensation. The Contractor shall not be compensated or reimbursed for travel, meals, or lodging.
- C.5. Payment of Invoice. The payment of the invoice by the State shall not prejudice the State's right to object to or question any invoice or matter in relation thereto. Such payment by the State shall neither be construed as acceptance of any part of the work or service provided nor as an approval of any of the amounts invoiced therein.
- C.6. Invoice Reductions. The Contractor's invoice shall be subject to reduction for amounts included in any invoice or payment theretofore made which are determined by the State, on the basis of audits conducted in accordance with the terms of this contract, not to constitute proper remuneration for compensable services.
- C.7. Deductions. The State reserves the right to deduct from amounts which are or shall become due and payable to the Contractor under this or any contract between the Contractor and the State of Tennessee any amounts which are or shall become due and payable to the State of Tennessee by the Contractor.
- C.8. Automatic Deposits. The Contractor shall complete and sign an "Authorization Agreement for Automatic Deposit (ACH Credits) Form." This form shall be provided to the Contractor by the State. Once this form has been completed and submitted to the State by the Contractor all payments to the Contractor, under this or any other contract the Contractor has with the State of Tennessee shall be made by Automated Clearing House (ACH). The Contractor shall not invoice the State for services until the Contractor has completed this form and submitted it to the State.
- D. STANDARD TERMS AND CONDITIONS:
- D.1. Required Approvals. The State is not bound by this Contract until it is approved by the appropriate State officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee State laws and regulations.
- D.2. Modification and Amendment. This Contract may be modified only by a written amendment executed by all parties hereto and approved by the appropriate Tennessee State officials in accordance with applicable Tennessee State laws and regulations.
- D.3. Termination for Convenience. The State may terminate this Contract without cause for any reason. Said termination shall not be deemed a Breach of Contract by the State. The State shall give the Contractor at least Thirty (30) days written notice before the effective termination date. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive compensation for satisfactory, authorized service completed as of the termination date, but in no event shall the State be liable to the Contractor for compensation for any service which has not been rendered. Upon such termination, the Contractor shall have no right to any actual general, special, incidental, consequential, or any other damages whatsoever of any description or amount.
- D.4. Termination for Cause. If the Contractor fails to properly perform its obligations under this Contract in a timely or proper manner, or if the Contractor violates any terms of this Contract, the State shall have the right to immediately terminate the Contract and withhold payments in excess of fair compensation for completed services. Notwithstanding the above, the Contractor shall not be relieved of liability to the State for damages sustained by virtue of any breach of this Contract by the Contractor.
- D.5. Subcontracting. The Contractor shall not assign this Contract or enter into a subcontract for any of the services performed under this Contract without obtaining the prior written approval of the State. If such subcontracts are approved by the State, they shall contain, at a minimum, sections of this Contract pertaining to "Conflicts of Interest" and "Nondiscrimination" (sections D.6. and D.7.). Notwithstanding any use of approved subcontractors, the Contractor shall be the prime contractor and shall be responsible for all work performed.

- D.6. Conflicts of Interest. The Contractor warrants that no part of the total Contract Amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Contractor in connection with any work contemplated or performed relative to this Contract.
- D.7. Nondiscrimination. The Contractor hereby agrees, warrants, and assures that no person shall be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the performance of this Contract or in the employment practices of the Contractor on the grounds of disability, age, race, color, religion, sex, national origin, or any other classification protected by Federal, Tennessee State constitutional, or statutory law. The Contractor shall, upon request, show proof of such nondiscrimination and shall post in conspicuous places, available to all employees and applicants, notices of nondiscrimination.
- D.8. Records. The Contractor shall maintain documentation for all charges against the State under this Contract. The books, records, and documents of the Contractor, insofar as they relate to work performed or money received under this contract, shall be maintained for a period of three (3) full years from the date of the final payment and shall be subject to audit at any reasonable time and upon reasonable notice by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives. The financial statements shall be prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- D.9. Monitoring. The Contractor's activities conducted and records maintained pursuant to this Contract shall be subject to monitoring and evaluation by the State, the Comptroller of the Treasury, or their duly appointed representatives.
- D.10. Progress Reports. The Contractor shall submit brief, periodic, progress reports to the State as requested.
- D.11. Strict Performance. Failure by any party to this Contract to insist in any one or more cases upon the strict performance of any of the terms, covenants, conditions, or provisions of this Contract shall not be construed as a waiver or relinquishment of any such term, covenant, condition, or provision. No term or condition of this Contract shall be held to be waived, modified, or deleted except by a written amendment signed by the parties hereto.
- D.12. Independent Contractor. The parties hereto, in the performance of this Contract, shall not act as employees, partners, joint venturers, or associates of one another. It is expressly acknowledged by the parties hereto that such parties are independent contracting entities and that nothing in this Contract shall be construed to create an employer/employee relationship or to allow either to exercise control or direction over the manner or method by which the other transacts its business affairs or provides its usual services. The employees or agents of one party shall not be deemed or construed to be the employees or agents of the other party for any purpose whatsoever.
- The Contractor, being an independent contractor and not an employee of the State, agrees to carry adequate public liability and other appropriate forms of insurance, including adequate public liability and other appropriate forms of insurance on the Contractor's employees, and to pay all applicable taxes incident to this Contract.
- D.13. State Liability. The State shall have no liability except as specifically provided in this Contract.
- D.14. Force Majeure. The obligations of the parties to this contract are subject to prevention by causes beyond the parties' control that could not be avoided by the exercise of due care including, but not limited to, acts of God, riots, wars, strikes, epidemics or any other similar cause.
- D.15. State and Federal Compliance. The Contractor shall comply with all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations in the performance of this Contract.
- D.16. Governing Law. This Contract shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Tennessee. The Contractor agrees that it will be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of the State of Tennessee in actions that may arise under this Contract. The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that any rights or claims against the State of Tennessee or its employees hereunder, and any

remedies arising therefrom, shall be subject to and limited to those rights and remedies, if any, available under ***Tennessee Code Annotated***, Sections 9-8-101 through 9-8-407.

- D.17. Completeness. This Contract is complete and contains the entire understanding between the parties relating to the subject matter contained herein, including all the terms and conditions of the parties' agreement. This Contract supersedes any and all prior understandings, representations, negotiations, and agreements between the parties relating hereto, whether written or oral.
- D.18. Severability. If any terms and conditions of this Contract are held to be invalid or unenforceable as a matter of law, the other terms and conditions hereof shall not be affected thereby and shall remain in full force and effect. To this end, the terms and conditions of this Contract are declared severable.
- D.19. Headings. Section headings of this Contract are for reference purposes only and shall not be construed as part of this Contract.

E. SPECIAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

- E.1. Conflicting Terms and Conditions. Should any of these special terms and conditions conflict with any other terms and conditions of this Contract, these special terms and conditions shall control.
- E.2. Communications and Contacts. All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications required or contemplated by this Contract shall be in writing and shall be made by facsimile transmission, by overnight courier service, or by first class mail, postage prepaid, addressed to the respective party at the appropriate facsimile number or address as set forth below or to such other party, facsimile number, or address as may be hereafter specified by written notice.

The State:

Dr. Benjamin Brown, Executive Director, Research
 Department of Education
 1252 Foster Avenue, Hardison Building, Nashville, TN 37210
 Telephone: (615) 532-1651
 Facsimile: (615) 532-7860

The Contractor:

[NAME AND TITLE OF CONTRACTOR CONTACT PERSON]
 [CONTRACTOR NAME]
 [ADDRESS]
 [TELEPHONE NUMBER]
 [FACSIMILE NUMBER]

All instructions, notices, consents, demands, or other communications shall be considered effectively given as of the day of delivery; as of the date specified for overnight courier service delivery; as of three (3) business days after the date of mailing; or on the day the facsimile transmission is received mechanically by the telefax machine at the receiving location and receipt is verbally confirmed by the sender if prior to 4:30 p.m. CST. Any communication by facsimile transmission shall also be sent by United States mail on the same date of the facsimile transmission.

- E.3. Breach. A party shall be deemed to have breached the Contract if any of the following occurs:
- failure to perform in accordance with any term or provision of the Contract;
 - partial performance of any term or provision of the Contract;
 - any act prohibited or restricted by the Contract, or
 - violation of any warranty.

For purposes of this contract, these items shall hereinafter be referred to as a "Breach."

- a. Contractor Breach— The State shall notify Contractor in writing of a Breach.

- (1) In event of a Breach by Contractor, the state shall have available the remedy of Actual Damages and any other remedy available at law or equity.
- (2) Partial Default— In the event of a Breach, the State may declare a Partial Default. In which case, the State shall provide the Contractor written notice of: (1) the date which Contractor shall terminate providing the service associated with the Breach; and (2) the date the State will begin to provide the service associated with the Breach. Notwithstanding the foregoing, the State may revise the time periods contained in the notice written to the Contractor.

In the event the State declares a Partial Default, the State may withhold, together with any other damages associated with the Breach, from the amounts due the Contractor the greater of: (1) amounts which would be paid the Contractor to provide the defaulted service; or (2) the cost to the State of providing the defaulted service, whether said service is provided by the State or a third party. To determine the amount the Contractor is being paid for any particular service, the Department shall be entitled to receive within five (5) days any requested material from Contractor. The State shall make the final and binding determination of said amount.

- (3) Contract Termination— In the event of a Breach, the State may terminate the Contract immediately or in stages. The Contractor shall be notified of the termination in writing by the State. Said notice shall hereinafter be referred to as Termination Notice. The Termination Notice may specify either that the termination is to be effective immediately, on a date certain in the future, or that the Contractor shall cease operations under this Contract in stages. In the event of a termination, the State may withhold any amounts which may be due Contractor without waiver of any other remedy or damages available to the State at law or at equity. The Contractor shall be liable to the State for any and all damages incurred by the State and any and all expenses incurred by the State which exceed the amount the State would have paid Contractor under this Contract. Contractor agrees to cooperate with the State in the event of a Contract Termination or Partial Takeover.

- b. State Breach— In the event of a Breach of contract by the State, the Contractor shall notify the State in writing within 30 days of any Breach of contract by the State. Said notice shall contain a description of the Breach. Failure by the Contractor to provide said written notice shall operate as an absolute waiver by the Contractor of the State's Breach. In no event shall any Breach on the part of the State excuse the Contractor from full performance under this Contract. In the event of Breach by the State, the Contractor may avail itself of any remedy at law in the forum with appropriate jurisdiction; provided, however, failure by the Contractor to give the State written notice and opportunity to cure as described herein operates as a waiver of the State's Breach. Failure by the Contractor to file a claim before the appropriate forum in Tennessee with jurisdiction to hear such claim within one (1) year of the written notice of Breach shall operate as a waiver of said claim in its entirety. It is agreed by the parties this provision establishes a contractual period of limitations for any claim brought by the Contractor.

E.4. State Ownership of Work Products. The State shall have all ownership right, title, and interest, including ownership of copyright, in all work products created, designed, developed, derived, documented, installed, or delivered to the State under this Contract. The State shall have royalty-free and unlimited rights to use, disclose, reproduce, or publish, for any purpose whatsoever, all said work products. The Contractor shall furnish such information and data upon request of the State, in accordance with the Contract and applicable State law.

E.5. Incorporation of Additional Documents. Included in this Contract by reference are the following documents:

- a. The Contract document and its attachments
- b. All Clarifications and addenda made to the Contractor's Proposal
- c. The Request for Proposal and its associated amendments
- d. Technical Specifications provided to the Contractor

e. The Contractor's Proposal

In the event of a discrepancy or ambiguity regarding the Contractor's duties, responsibilities, and performance under this Contract, these documents shall govern in order of precedence detailed above.

- E.6. Public Funding Notice. All notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared and released by the Contractor relative to this Contract shall include the statement, "This project is funded under an agreement with the State of Tennessee." Any such notices by the Contractor shall be approved by the State.
- E.7. Prohibited Advertising. The Contractor shall not refer to this Contract or the Contractor's relationship with the State hereunder in commercial advertising in such a manner as to state or imply that the Contractor or the Contractor's services are endorsed.
- E.8. Confidentiality of Records. Strict standards of confidentiality of records shall be maintained in accordance with the law. All material and information, regardless of form, medium or method of communication, provided to the Contractor by the State or acquired by the Contractor on behalf of the State shall be regarded as confidential information in accordance with the provisions of State law and ethical standards and shall not be disclosed, and all necessary steps shall be taken by the Contractor to safeguard the confidentiality of such material or information in conformance with State law and ethical standards.

The Contractor will be deemed to have satisfied its obligations under this section by exercising the same level of care to preserve the confidentiality of the State's information as the Contractor exercises to protect its own confidential information so long as such standard of care does not violate the applicable provisions of the first paragraph of this section.

The Contractor's obligations under this section do not apply to information in the public domain; entering the public domain but not from a breach by the Contractor of this Contract; previously possessed by the Contractor without written obligations to the State to protect it; acquired by the Contractor without written restrictions against disclosure from a third party which, to the Contractor's knowledge, is free to disclose the information; independently developed by the Contractor without the use of the State's information; or, disclosed by the State to others without restrictions against disclosure.

It is expressly understood and agreed the obligations set forth in this section shall survive the termination of this Contract.

- E.9. Copyrights and Patents. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Tennessee as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims or suits which may be brought against the State for infringement of any laws regarding patents or copyrights which may arise from the Contractor's performance of this Contract. In any such action brought against the State, the Contractor shall satisfy and indemnify the State for the amount of any final judgment for infringement. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable fees of attorneys for the State in the event such service is necessitated to enforce the terms of this Contract or otherwise enforce the obligations of the Contractor to the State. The State shall give the Contractor written notice of any such claim or suit and full right and opportunity to conduct the Contractor's own defense thereof.
- E.10. Date/Time Hold Harmless. As required by **Tennessee Code Annotated**, Section 12-4-118, the contractor shall hold harmless and indemnify the State of Tennessee; its officers and employees; and any agency or political subdivision of the State for any breach of contract caused directly or indirectly by the failure of computer software or any device containing a computer processor to accurately or properly recognize, calculate, display, sort or otherwise process dates or times.
- E.11. Hold Harmless. The Contractor agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the State of Tennessee as well as its officers, agents, and employees from and against any and all claims, liabilities, losses, and causes of action which may arise, accrue, or result to any person, firm, corporation, or other entity which may be injured or damaged as a result of acts, omissions, or negligence on the part of the Contractor, its employees, or any person acting for or on its or their behalf relating to this Contract. The Contractor further agrees it shall be liable for the reasonable cost of attorneys for the State in the event such service is necessitated to enforce the terms of this Contract or otherwise enforce the obligations of the Contractor

to the State.

In the event of any such suit or claim, the Contractor shall give the State immediate notice thereof and shall provide all assistance required by the State in the State's defense. The State shall give the Contractor written notice of any such claim or suit, and the Contractor shall have full right and obligation to conduct the Contractor's own defense thereof. Nothing contained herein shall be deemed to accord to the Contractor, through its attorney(s), the right to represent the State of Tennessee in any legal matter, such rights being governed by **Tennessee Code Annotated**, Section 8-6-106.

- E.12. Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. The Contractor acknowledges and understands that, subject to statutory exceptions contained in **Tennessee Code Annotated**, Section 8-36-801, *et. seq.*, the law governing the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, provides that if a retired member returns to State employment, the member's retirement allowance is suspended during the period of the employment. Accordingly and notwithstanding any provision of this Contract to the contrary, the Contractor agrees that if it is later determined that the true nature of the working relationship between the Contractor and the State under this Contract is that of "employee/employer" and not that of an independent contractor, the Contractor may be required to repay to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System the amount of retirement benefits the Contractor received from the Retirement System during the period of this Contract.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF:

[CONTRACTOR LEGAL ENTITY NAME]:

[NAME AND TITLE]

Date

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

Lana Seivers, Commissioner

Date

APPROVED:

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION:

M. D. Goetz, Jr., Commissioner

Date

ATTACHMENT 6.2**PROPOSAL TRANSMITTAL AND STATEMENT OF CERTIFICATIONS AND ASSURANCES**

The Proposer must complete and sign this Technical Proposal Transmittal. It must be signed, in the space below, by an individual empowered to bind the proposing entity to the provisions of this RFP and any contract awarded pursuant to it. If said individual is not the Proposer's chief executive, this document shall attach evidence showing the individual's authority to bind the proposing entity.

PROPOSER LEGAL ENTITY NAME:

PROPOSER FEDERAL EMPLOYER IDENTIFICATION NUMBER:
(or Social Security Number)

The Proposer does hereby affirm and expressly declare confirmation, certification, and assurance of the following:

- 1) This proposal constitutes a commitment to provide all services as defined in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract Scope of Services for the total contract period and confirmation that the Proposer shall comply with all of the provisions in this RFP and shall accept all terms and conditions set out in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract.
- 2) The information detailed in the proposal submitted herewith in response to the subject RFP is accurate.
- 3) The proposal submitted herewith in response to the subject RFP shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any contract pursuant to the RFP.
- 4) The Proposers shall comply with:
 - a) the laws of the State of Tennessee;
 - b) Title VI of the federal Civil Rights Act of 1964;
 - c) Title IX of the federal Education Amendments Act of 1972;
 - d) the Equal Employment Opportunity Act and the regulations issued there under by the federal government;
 - e) the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and the regulations issued there under by the federal government;
 - f) the condition that the submitted proposal was independently arrived at, without collusion, under penalty of perjury; and,
 - g) the condition that no amount shall be paid directly or indirectly to an employee or official of the State of Tennessee as wages, compensation, or gifts in exchange for acting as an officer, agent, employee, subcontractor, or consultant to the Proposer in connection with the Procurement under this RFP.
- 5) The Proposer shall comply with all of the provisions in the subject RFP and shall accept all terms and conditions set out in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma* Contract.

SIGNATURE & DATE:

ATTACHMENT 6.3

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL & EVALUATION GUIDE — SECTION A		
PROPOSER NAME:		
SECTION A — MANDATORY REQUIREMENTS		
<p>The Proposer must address ALL Mandatory Requirements section items and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). The RFP Coordinator will review all general mandatory requirements, including but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposal received on or before the Proposal Deadline. ▪ Technical Proposal copies and Cost Proposal packaged separately. ▪ Technical Proposal contains NO cost data. ▪ Proposer did NOT submit alternate proposals. ▪ Proposer did NOT submit multiple proposals in a different form. ▪ Technical Proposal does NOT contain any restrictions of the rights of the State or other qualification of the proposal. <p>The RFP Coordinator will also review the proposal to determine if the Mandatory Requirement Items (below) are met and mark each with pass or fail. For each requirement that is not met, the Proposal Evaluation Team must review the proposal and attach a written determination.</p> <p>NOTICE: In addition to these requirements, the State will also evaluate compliance with ALL RFP requirements.</p>		
Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Mandatory Requirement Items	State Use ONLY
		Pass/Fail
	<p>A.1 Provide the Proposal Transmittal and Statement of Certifications and Assurances (detailed in RFP Attachment 6.2) completed and signed, in the space provided, by an individual empowered to bind the Proposer to the provisions of this RFP and any resulting contract.</p> <p><i>Each Proposer <u>must</u> sign the Proposal Transmittal and Statement of Certifications and Assurances without exception or qualification.</i></p>	
	<p>A.2 Provide the following as documentation of financial responsibility and stability.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a current written bank reference, in the form of a standard business letter, indicating that the proposer's business relationship with the financial institution is in positive standing ▪ two current written, positive credit references, in the form of standard business letters, from vendors with which the proposer has done business or, documentation of a positive credit rating determined by a accredited credit bureau within the last 6 months ▪ a copy of a valid certificate of insurance indicating liability insurance in an amount sufficient to cover any potential liability arising as a result of a contract pursuant to this RFP. 	

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Mandatory Requirement Items	State Use ONLY
		Pass/Fail
	<p>A.3 Provide a statement of whether the Proposer or any individual who shall perform work under the contract has a possible conflict of interest (e.g., employment by the State of Tennessee) and, if so, the nature of that conflict.</p> <p><i>Any questions of conflict of interest shall be solely within the discretion of the State, and the State reserves the right to cancel any award.</i></p>	

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL & EVALUATION GUIDE — SECTION B

PROPOSER NAME:	
SECTION B — QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE	
<p>The Proposer must address ALL Qualifications and Experience section items and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references).</p> <p>A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the proposal's "qualifications and experience" responses.</p>	
Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Qualifications & Experience Items
	B.1 Describe the Proposer's form of business (<i>i.e.</i> , individual, sole proprietor, corporation, non-profit corporation, partnership, limited liability company) and detail the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person the State should contact regarding the proposal.
	B.2 Provide a statement of whether there have been any mergers, acquisitions, or sales of the Proposer company within the last ten years, and if so, an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.3 Provide a statement of whether the Proposer or any of the Proposer's employees, agents, independent contractors, or subcontractors have been convicted of, pled guilty to, or pled <i>nolo contendere</i> to any felony, and if so, an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.4 Provide a statement of whether there is any pending litigation against the Proposer; and if such litigation exists, an attached opinion of counsel as to whether the pending litigation will impair the Proposer's performance in a contract under this RFP.
	B.5 Provide a statement of whether, in the last ten years, the Proposer has filed (or had filed against it) any bankruptcy or insolvency proceeding, whether voluntary or involuntary, or undergone the appointment of a receiver, trustee, or assignee for the benefit of creditors, and if so, an explanation providing relevant details.
	B.6 Provide a statement of whether there are any pending Securities Exchange Commission investigations involving the Proposer, and if such are pending or in progress, an explanation providing relevant details and an attached opinion of counsel as to whether the pending investigation(s) will impair the Proposer's performance in a contract under this RFP.
	B.7 Describe the Proposer organization's number of employees, client base, and location of offices.
	B.8 Provide a personnel roster and resumes of key people who shall be assigned by the Proposer to perform duties or services under the contract (include estimated number of hours to be worked on the contract for each person, and the resumes shall detail each individual's title, education, current position with the Proposer, and employment history) as well as an organizational chart highlighting the key people who shall be assigned to accomplish the work required by this RFP and illustrating the lines of authority and designate the individual responsible for the completion of each service component and deliverable of the RFP.

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Qualifications & Experience Items	
	B.9	Provide a statement of whether the Proposer intends to use subcontractors, and if so, the names and mailing addresses of the committed subcontractors and a description of the scope and portions of the work the subcontractors will perform.
	B.10	<p>Provide documentation of Proposer commitment to diversity as represented by its business strategy, business relationships, and workforce — this documentation should detail:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a description of the Proposer's existing programs and procedures designed to encourage and foster commerce with business enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises ▪ a listing of the Proposer's current contracts with business enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises, including the following information <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ contract description and total value ○ contractor name and ownership characteristics (<i>i.e.</i>, ethnicity, sex, disability) ○ contractor contact and telephone number ▪ an estimate of the level of participation by business enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises in a contract awarded to the Proposer pursuant to this RFP, including the following information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ participation estimate (expressed as a percent of the total contract value that will be dedicated to business with subcontractors and supply contractors having such ownership characteristics) ○ descriptions of anticipated contracts ○ names and ownership characteristics (<i>i.e.</i>, ethnicity, sex, disability) of anticipated subcontractors and supply contractors anticipated ▪ the percent of the Proposer's total current employees by ethnicity, sex, and disability <p><i>Proposers that demonstrate a commitment to diversity will advance State efforts to expand opportunity to do business with the State as contractors and sub-contractors. Proposal evaluations will recognize the positive qualifications and experience of a Proposer that does business with enterprises owned by minorities, women, persons with a disability and small business enterprises and that offers a diverse workforce to meet service needs.</i></p>
(Maximum Section B.1 through B.10 Score =5)		
SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B items above, B.1 through B10):		
	B.11	Provide a brief, descriptive statement indicating the Proposer's credentials to deliver the services sought under this RFP.
	B.12	Briefly describe how long the Proposer has been performing the services required

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Qualifications & Experience Items	
	by this RFP and include the number of years in business.	
	B.13 Provide a narrative description of the proposed project team, its members, and organizational structure.	
	<p>B.14 Provide customer references for similar projects representing both three of the larger accounts currently serviced by the vendor and three completed projects as well as a list, if any, of all current contracts with the State of Tennessee and all those completed within the previous five year period.</p> <p>Each reference must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the company name and business address; ▪ the name, title, and telephone number of the company contact knowledgeable about the project work; and ▪ a brief description of the service provided and the period of service. <p>The list of contracts with the State of Tennessee must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ the contract number; ▪ the contract term; and ▪ the procuring state agency for each reference. <p><i>Each evaluator will generally consider the results of reference inquiries by the State regarding <u>all</u> references provided (both state and non-state). Current or prior contracts with the State are not a prerequisite and are not required for the maximum evaluation score possible, and the existence of such contracts with the State will not automatically result in the addition or deduction of evaluation points.</i></p>	
(Maximum Section B.11 through B.14 Score =15)		
SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B items above, B.11 through B.14):		

SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B items above, B.1 through B10):	
SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B items above, B.11 through B.14):	
TOTAL SCORE (for <u>all</u> Section B items above, B.1 through B.14):	

TECHNICAL PROPOSAL & EVALUATION GUIDE — SECTION C

PROPOSER NAME:

SECTION C — TECHNICAL APPROACH

The Proposer must address ALL Technical Approach section items and provide, in sequence, the information and documentation as required (referenced with the associated item references). A Proposal Evaluation Team, made up of three or more State employees, will independently evaluate and score the proposal's response to each item. Each evaluator will use the following whole number, raw point scale for scoring each item:

0 = little value 1 = poor 2 = fair 3 = satisfactory 4 = good 5 = excellent

The RFP Coordinator will multiply each item score by the assigned weight with the product being the item's raw weighted score for purposes of calculating the section score as detailed at the end of this table.

Proposal Page # (to be completed by Proposer)	Technical Approach Items	State Use ONLY		
		Score	Item Weight	Raw Weighted Score
	C.1 Provide a narrative that illustrates the Proposer's understanding of the State's requirements and project schedule.		2	
	C.2 Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Proposer will complete the scope of services, accomplish required objectives, and meet the State's project schedule.		3	
	C.3 Provide a narrative that illustrates how the Proposer will manage the project, ensure completion of the scope of services, and accomplish required objectives within the State's project schedule.		4	
	C.4 Provide a sample report from a statewide alignment study.		1	
Total Raw Weighted Score: <i>(sum of Raw Weighted Scores above)</i>				
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> Total Raw Weighted Score <hr style="width: 40%; margin: 0 auto;"/> maximum possible raw weighted score <i>(i.e., 5 x the sum of item weights above)</i> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> X 50 <i>(maximum section score)</i> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> = SCORE: </div> </div>				

ATTACHMENT 6.4

COST PROPOSAL & SCORING GUIDE

NOTICE TO PROPOSER: This Cost Proposal **MUST** be completed **EXACTLY** as required.

PROPOSER NAME:

SIGNATURE & DATE:

NOTE: The signatory must be an individual or a company officer empowered to contractually bind the Proposer. If the Signatory is not the Proposer company president, this Statement of Certifications and Assurances SHALL attach evidence showing the Signatory's authority to bind the Proposer.

COST PROPOSAL SCHEDULE

The proposed cost, detailed below, shall indicate the proposed price for providing the entire scope of service including all services as defined in the RFP Attachment 6.1, *Pro Forma Contract Scope of Services* for the total contract period. The proposed cost and the submitted technical proposal associated with this cost shall remain valid for at least 120 days subsequent to the date of the Cost Proposal opening and thereafter in accordance with any resulting contract between the Proposer and the State. All monetary amounts are United States currency.

Cost Item Description

Proposed Cost Amount

Alignment Study Report

\$

The RFP Coordinator shall use the proposed cost amount above and the following formula to calculate the COST PROPOSAL SCORE. Calculations shall result in numbers rounded to two decimal places.

**Lowest Proposed Cost Amount
from all Proposals**

**Proposed Cost Amount
being evaluated**

X 30
(maximum section score)

= SCORE:

ATTACHMENT 6.5

PROPOSAL SCORE SUMMARY MATRIX

RFP Coordinator		Date		
QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE Maximum Points: 20	PROPOSER NAME		PROPOSER NAME	PROPOSER NAME
EVALUATOR NAME				
EVALUATOR NAME				
EVALUATOR NAME				
EVALUATOR NAME				
REPEAT AS NECESSARY				
	AVERAGE SCORE:		AVERAGE SCORE:	AVERAGE SCORE:
TECHNICAL APPROACH Maximum Points: 50				
EVALUATOR NAME				
EVALUATOR NAME				
EVALUATOR NAME				
EVALUATOR NAME				
REPEAT AS NECESSARY				
	AVERAGE SCORE:		AVERAGE SCORE:	AVERAGE SCORE:
COST PROPOSAL Maximum Points: 30	SCORE:		SCORE:	SCORE:
PROPOSAL SCORE Maximum Points: 100	TOTAL SCORE:		TOTAL SCORE:	TOTAL SCORE: